



News Release

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DWR Announces Increase in State Water Project Pumping

Sacramento -- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) will increase pumping at its Harvey O. Banks Delta Pumping Plant beginning Sunday, June 17. The department shut down the pumps on May 31 to help protect threatened Delta smelt, fish that have long been thought to be indicators of the Delta ecosystem's overall health. Very limited operations were started on June 10 to meet critical water needs.

The decision to increase deliveries this weekend is based on several factors including more favorable tidal conditions for Delta smelt, rising water temperatures that will push the fish into cooler regions of the Bay-Delta, and growing water demands by cities and farmers throughout the state.

DWR plans to increase pumping from the current 100 cfs daily average to 1000 cfs on Sunday and up to 2,500 cfs next week as water reaches the Delta from Lake Oroville.

With the increased pumping, the State Water Project will resume making full deliveries to Bay Area communities served by the South Bay Aqueduct. Scheduled deliveries to communities and farmers in the Central Valley and Southern California will also be met with these new water supplies.

Throughout this period, DWR and the Department of Fish and Game will continue to closely monitor Delta smelt in the area on a continuous basis. At the same time, aggressive action must be taken to address other stressors to the Delta smelt including toxics, invasive species, and other

Delta diversions.

This situation also underscores the vulnerability of the Delta, whether from natural disaster, rising sea levels due to climate change or an environmental challenge. Governor Schwarzenegger has proposed a comprehensive solution to implement a long term Delta sustainability plan, as well new surface and groundwater storage, restoration programs and more conservation.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.